

AGRICULTURE STREET LANDFILL

LOUISIANA

EPA ID# LAD981056997

EPA REGION 6
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 02

Orleans Parish
New Orleans

Updated: June 27, 1997

Site Description

- Location:**
- The site is located in New Orleans, Orleans Parish, Louisiana. It is approximately three miles south of Lake Pontchartrain and 2.5 to 3.0 miles north-northeast of the Vieux Carre and the Central Business District. The approximate geographic coordinates for the center of the site are 29°59'20" north latitude and 90°02'31" west longitude. The site is bounded on the north by Higgins Road and on the east from Clouet Street (to the south) to Montegut Street (to the north). On the south and west, the site runs along the Southern Railroad right-of-way. The Peoples Avenue and Florida Avenue canals are located west and south of the site, respectively.
- Population:**
- The 1990 Census identifies 390 residential units (some 1,000 people) on the site. The community is predominately African-American, with middle- to-low income levels.
- Setting:**
- A 95 acre former City disposal area that has been partially redeveloped. 47 acres of the site have private and public housing; the Press Park Community Center; a recreation center; retail businesses, and the Moton Elementary school. The remainder of the site is undeveloped and covered by dense vegetation.
- Hydrology:**
- The Peoples Avenue canal is to the west and the Florida Avenue canal is to the south. Both receive storm water run-off from the site. Canal water is pumped into Industrial Canal which then discharges into Lake Pontchartrain. A shallow aquifer (that is not a drinking water source) that underlies the site is encountered between 2 and 9 feet below land surface.

Wastes and Volumes

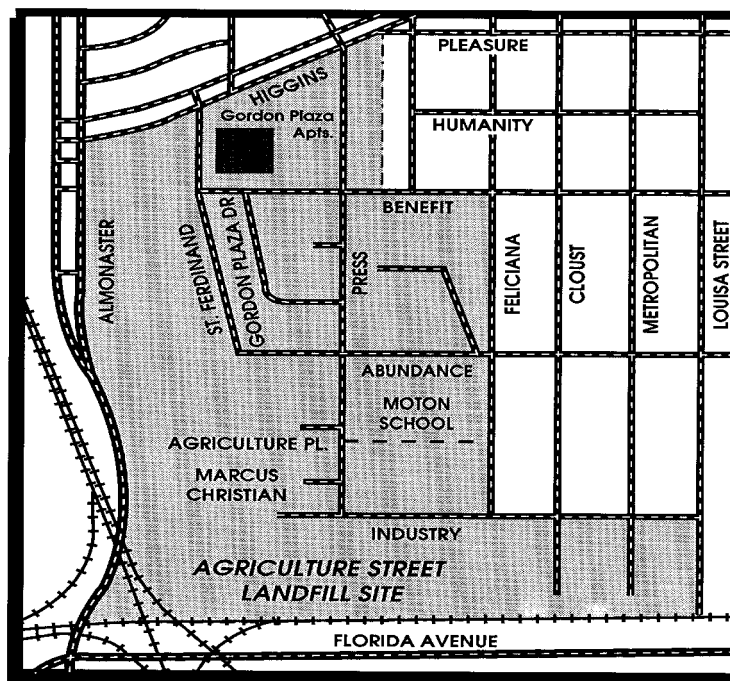
- When in operation, the disposal area accepted municipal garbage, construction debris, incinerator and open burning ash. This type of material ranges in depth from 2 to more than 32.5 feet beneath the 95 acre site.

Site Assessment and Ranking

NPL LISTING HISTORY

Site HRS Score: 50.00
Proposed Date: 8/23/94
Final Date: 12/16/94
NPL Update: No. 13

Site Map and Diagram



The Remediation Process

Site History:

- 1910 to 1957- used as a municipal landfill
- 1958- The incinerator on site was decommissioned.
- 1965- Landfill re-opened to receive debris created by Hurricane Betsy; open burning of waste continued for 6 to 7 months, after which the area was covered with ash from city incinerators and compacted with bulldozers.
- 1977 to 1986- The northern portion of site was re-developed to support housing (390 properties are on the site of the old landfill), small businesses, and the Moton Elementary school. The residential properties received a relatively thin (often 6 inches or less) covering of soil; the Moton School was built upon several feet of clean fill.
- 1986- The EPA completed a site investigation. Under the "old" Hazard Ranking System which excluded ingestion, the site did not qualify for placement on the National Priorities List (NPL).
- 1993- On May 4, community leaders from the Moton Elementary school area filed a complaint with the Gulf Coast Tenants Organization and requested EPA to re-evaluate the site. In September, EPA collected additional samples for use in the revised HRS model (that reflects ingestion and a soil pathway).
- 1994- EPA initiated an accelerated remedial investigation integrated with removal actions. Fieldwork was completed in May 1994, including the erection of a fence around the undeveloped area and removal of highly contaminated soils at a children's play area. The site was proposed to the NPL on August 23, 1994. Due to community concerns created by the Superfund listing, the school board announced on August 24 that the Moton School would not open and that students would be bussed to a different school. The site was formally added to the NPL on December 16, 1994.

Health Considerations:

- MOTON SCHOOL: No health or environmental problems detected; the school built on top of 3 to 5 feet of clean fill.
- SHALLOW GROUND WATER: found to be contaminated with elevated levels of metals. However, this aquifer is not useable by humans and does not impact surface water.
- RESIDENTIAL AREAS - SOILS:
 - * **Current Surface Contamination** - Marginal human health risk:
 - 1.3 X 10⁻⁴ lifetime cancer risk (all contaminants of concern);
 - 6.1% children with projected risk (Lead (Pb) concentrations 500 to 1,000 parts per

million (pm).

- * **Future Surface Contamination** - If landfill materials below the top foot of soils were exposed due to human activity, health risks would increase to:

- 5.0 X 10⁻⁴ lifetime cancer risk (all contaminants of concern);
- 63.8% children with projected risk (Pb concentrations 1,000 to 4,000 ppm).

- UNDEVELOPED PROPERTY SOILS:

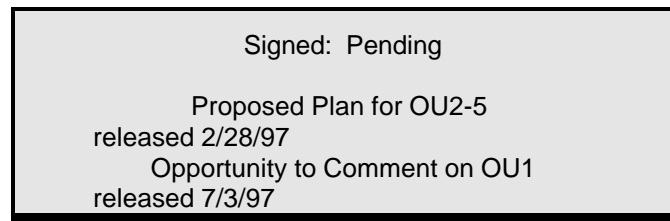
- * **Current Surface Contamination** - Currently contamination levels are high (e.g. 37.2 to 28,300 ppm lead, but there is no routine exposure to people due to an erected 8 foot fence.

- * **Future Surface Contamination** - City has zoned tracts "residential."

Other Environmental Risks:

- The site is an urban setting; there are minimal ecological impacts.

Record of Decision



Community Involvement

- Community Involvement Plan: Developed 03/94
- Open houses and workshops: 8/93, 9/93, 2/94, 6/94, 9/94, 10/94, 11/94, 1/95, 7/95, 3/96, 4/96, 5/96, 7/96, 8/96, 11/96, 2/97.
- Original Proposed Plan Fact Sheet and Public Meeting: Draft Proposed Plan and Feasibility Study was issued to the residents for comments on 4/17/96. The formal decision making process commenced with the issuance of the 2/28/97 Proposed Plan Fact Sheet. The public comment period started March 5 - May 12, 1997, and two public meetings were conducted on 3/19/97. One was conducted for the seniors that morning, followed with an evening meeting. A "Notice of Opportunity to comment on EPA's plans for the undeveloped property (OU1) was issued 7/3/97. The 30 day comment period will commence 7/7 and end August 5, 1997.
- Original ROD Fact Sheet:
- Milestone Fact Sheets: 8/93, 9/93, 12/93, 2/94, 3/94, 5/94, 10/94, 11/94, 12/94, 7/95, 4/96, 6/96, 7/96, 2/97
- Citizens on site mailing list: 458
- Site Repositories:
 - (1) Helen Edwards Elementary School Library 504/942-3625
 - (2) Community Outreach Office 504/944-6445
- Community Concerns: Health risks to adults and children, desire to relocate, property values.

Technical Assistance Grant

- Availability Notice: 6/94; re-advertised 7/94
- Letters of Intent Received:
 - 1) Concerned Citizens of Agriculture St. Landfill (CCASL)
 - 2) Citizens For An Environmentally Safe Press Park
- Final Application Received: 9/20/94
- Grant Award: 09/27/94
- Technical Advisor selected: 3/30/95

Fiscal and Program Management

- **Remedial Project Manager:** Ursula Lennox (EPA) 214-665-6743, Mail Code: 6SF-LP
- **On-scene Coordinator:** Craig Carroll (EPA) 214-665-2299, Mail Code: 6SF-R1
- **State Contact:** Bill Perry, 504-765-0487
- **Community Involvement Coordinator:** Olivia Balandrán (EPA) 214-665-6584, Mail Code: 6SF-PO
- **Attorney:** Pamela Travis (EPA) 214-665-8056, Mail Code: 6SF-DL
- **State Coordinator:** Joe Massie (EPA) 214-665-8508, Mail Code: 6SF-LP
- **Prime Contractor:** Ecology and Environment

Present Status and Issues

- The Potentially Responsible Parties's reluctance to take on an active role in negotiations continues to hinder the implementation of the decision making process.
- The EPA Deputy Administrator, Elliott Laws, and the Region 6 Administrator, Jane Saginaw, met with site-area residents on March 22, 1996, to discuss site issues and community concerns.
- The community and TAG advisor were provided with copies of the draft Proposed Plan of Action and the Feasibility Study on 4/17/96 for comments and input. This, in conjunction with workshops, will enable the community to become familiar with the information before the decision making process commences and will help to ensure that the community's public involvement issues and concerns are identified and addressed. As a result of the May 29, 1996, information meeting, the formal remedy selection process will not commence until EPA is informed by the community that it is ready for the process to start.
- Information Bulletins have been utilized since May 1996, to address questions/concerns posed by the residents on the draft Proposed Plan of Action and complications associated with soil removal. During this period, EPA has considered the community's input and preferences in the development of a remedy proposal for the site.
- An August 1996 Bulletin was issued, announcing EPA's plans to perform a pilot study on the community center, however, at a community meeting conducted that same month, the residents objected to its implementation, and the effort was terminated.
- An February 1997 Information Bulletin was issued, announcing the "Decision Process to Begin Soon."
- The Proposed Plan of Action fact sheet was mailed 2/28/97, and the public comment period started 3/5. An extension was requested and the comment period was extended until 5/12/97.
- EPA met with elected officials on 3/18/97 to discuss the decision making process. EPA also attended the community leaders' meeting on 3/18/97. The intent of this meeting was to achieve a consensus on the elements of a remedy that reflects the desires of the entire community.
- Two public meetings were conducted on 3/19. The morning meeting was conducted for the senior citizens and the evening meeting was conducted for the residents and interested parties.
- The transcripts of the public meetings were received on 4/25. Transcripts were reviewed and

comments were provided. Revised transcripts, the decision documents and the responsiveness summary will be included as part of the Administrative Record.

- Another community leader's meeting was conducted on 6/16, to discuss what aspects of the community's plan of "choice" could be implemented by the stakeholders in attendance. Attendees included representatives from Senators Breaux, and Landrieu's office, Congressman Jefferson's office, the city of New Orleans, a school official, the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) officials, LDEQ, ATSDR, and the State Health Department.
- Plans are underway to solicit public comment on the undeveloped property (OU1). A comprehensive decision document and responsiveness summary will be developed that reflects the ultimate remedy for the entire site.

Benefits

- A removal action from 9/93 to 5/94 secured an undeveloped area of the site and addressed short-term risks.
- Implementation of the proposed remedy will address potential long-term risks and protect the health of over 1000 people living on the site.